## WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE AFTER THE HOLIDAYS

Whether you live in town or in the country, we have some tips for responsibly disposing of your real Christmas trees!

① Contact your public works department to see if they provide a curbside tree pick-up service. Some municipalities require you to bring it to a central location. Information can sometimes be found on your town or city's website.

2 You can turn your tree into mulch if you have access to a chipper. The mulch can be used in your garden, landscaping, or compost pile.

3 If you have a backyard, you can turn your tree into a bird shelter and feeder. Many birds will be attracted by suet, cranberry and popcorn strings, stale bread and dried, chopped fruit in mesh bags. Remember to remove anything birds or other wildlife can choke on, like tinsel. When winter is over the tree will have dried out, and you'll easily be able to break it apart by hand and place it in a yard waste bag.

4 Create edging for your garden by trimming the branches off of the trunk. The trunk can also be strategically placed in your yard as a resting spot for birds, squirrels and other critters. You can also saw the trunk into rounds and use it for landscaping or crafts, such as coasters.

5 If you still have your Christmas tree out in the yard when warm weather appears, there's still a use for it. If permitted in your community, burn the branches and spread the ashes in your garden as a soil amendment.

6 Place whole evergreen boughs on perennial beds or nursery rows to protect them from winter freezes and spring thaws. The boughs provide the steady temperatures that most plants need. Or, just use the boughs as post-Christmas house decorations.

Some areas use discarded Christmas trees for fish habitat. To prevent polluting waterways, make sure you remove all decorations from your tree. Some farmed trees are coated in pesticides and flame retardant so we advise only disposing of wild trees in this way.



